

AC4461

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

REPORT OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

On account of shortage of staff, of paper and printing facilities, and having due regard to the present urgent necessity for economy this report has been considerably reduced in size and is stenographed only. The mass of material usually contained in peace-time reports has been prepared for future record purposes, and this is available in the Department.

The report is very much delayed in its presentation owing to the war and the consequent late arrival of the Registrar-General's returns early in 1941.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

The birth-rate was down slightly in 1939 as compared with 1938, the decrease in actual births being about 400.

The death-rate for 1939 was up by 0.6 per 1,000 of the population on 1938, the actual deaths being about 950 more in 1939.

The causes of death chiefly contributing to this increase were as under:-

	<u>Deaths in</u> <u>1938.</u>	<u>Deaths in</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Increase in</u> <u>number of deaths</u> <u>in 1939.</u>
Influenza . . . . .	132	329	197
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1115	1270	155
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	5918	6389	471
	<hr/> 7165	<hr/> 7988	<hr/> 823

There was an increase of 34 in the deaths from whooping cough in 1939 over 1938, but a decrease of 71 in deaths from measles. Decreases in the number of deaths from the various causes which are noteworthy, not because of their extent but

owing to the diseases they relate to, are shown below:-

	<u>Number of deaths:-</u>		
	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	
Measles	79	8	There was a decrease in the deaths from cancer in 1937 and 1938; in 1930 and 1931 the number of deaths was the same; with these exceptions, the deaths from cancer have steadily increased in number year by year since 1918.
Diphtheria	142	95	
Cerebro Spinal	21	9	
Fever			
Cancer	2,325	2,293	
Maternal Deaths (deaths of mothers in childbirth)	87	70	

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>
Number	1,191	1,238
Rate per 1,000 births	51	54

The increase in the number of deaths in 1939 over 1938 is only 47. The infant death-rate of 51 in 1938 was an exceptionally low one (see paragraph 6 of foreword to the Annual Report for 1938). With the exception of the rate of 51 for 1938, the rate of 54 for 1939 is the lowest on record for the Administrative County. The increase in 1939 over 1938 cannot be attributed to any particular cause

Maternal Death-Rate.

This shows a very satisfactory decrease on the rate for 1938. The number of deaths from puerperal causes for the past few years are given below:-

Year.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Causes.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live and still births.	
				Administra- tive County.	England and Wales.
1933	48	96	144	5.94	4.23
1934	54	82	136	5.53	4.41
1935	43	62	105	4.34	3.93
1936	39	61	100	4.16	3.65
1937	21	69	90	3.74	3.11
1938	25	62	87	3.58	2.97
1939	19	51	70	2.92	2.82

The rate for England and Wales shows a decrease of approximately 5 per cent. on that for 1938, but the rate for the Administrative County shows a decrease of nearly 19 per cent. In the area for which the County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority the rate for 1939 is 2.82, the same as for England and Wales. The corresponding rate in 1938 was 4.21.

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY.

3,110 cases of scarlet fever were notified in 1939 which is a decrease of 365 on the figure for 1938, and, with the exception of that for the year 1931 when 2,952 cases were notified, is the lowest figure since 1921 when 3,059 cases were notified.

The number of notifications of diphtheria also shows a decrease being 2,057 compared with 2,560 for the year 1938.

The number of notifications of enteric fever in 1939 was 74 compared with 22 for the year 1938 and the average of 43 for the five years 1934-1938. Although there is an increase of 52 cases in 1939 as compared with 1938 it should be pointed out that the number of cases notified in 1938 was abnormally low. The districts where more than the average number of cases was notified in 1939 are:-

	<u>Typhoid.</u>	<u>Paratyphoid.</u>
Bingley U.D.	1	4
Colne Valley U.D.	-	3
Denby Dale U.D.	-	3
Denholme U.D.	1	4
Harrogate M.B.	1	9
Knaresborough U.D.	2	2
Pontefract M.B.	-	3
Rothwell U.D.	-	5
Nidderdale R.D.	-	4

#### SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1939.

Area of Administrative County	-	1,610,829 acres.
Estimated Resident Population	-	1,503,400
(Mid-year 1939)		
Enumerated Population at	-	1,530,405
1931 Census		
Population at 1931 Census	-	1,504,057
(Adjusted for the changes in boundary which have taken place since the 1931 Census enumeration).		



County Districts, 89, namely:- 11 Boroughs.  
57 Urban Districts.  
21 Rural Districts.

The Vital Statistics for the Administrative County for the decennia 1918-27 and 1928-37 and for the years 1938 and 1939 are summarised below:-

	<u>Averages for</u> <u>10 years:-</u>			
	<u>1918-27.</u>	<u>1928-37.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939..</u>
<u>Birth Rate</u> (per 1,000 estimated population)	20.5	15.9	15.5	15.2
<u>Death Rates:-</u> (All per 1,000 estimated population)				
All Causes	13.1	12.2	11.6	12.2
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil.
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.06
Measles	0.19	0.06	0.05	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.15	0.07	0.02	0.04
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal infectious)	0.69	0.34	0.23	0.18
Phthisis (Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	0.74	0.52	0.38	0.41
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0.28	0.16	0.11	0.10
Respiratory Diseases	2.31	1.41	0.99	1.01
Cancer	1.16	1.41	1.55	1.52
Heart Disease	1.52	2.59	3.16	3.41
<u>Infantile Mortality</u> (i.e. Number of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	88	67	51	54
<u>Diarrhoea</u> (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	10.07	4.83	3.48	3.85
<u>Maternal Mortality:-</u> (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.68	2.01	1.07	0.83
Other Causes	3.08	3.29	2.67	2.23
Total	4.76	5.30	3.74	3.06

T.N.V.POTTS.